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Central Congregational Church
"For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors"
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Can't We All Just Get Along

1 Corinthians 1:10-17

Series: Following Jesus in the Real World

Central Passage

1 Corinthians 1:10 (ESV) — 10 I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.

Central Thought: In a cripplingly divisive era, both within the church and without, our unity in Christ is our greatest challenge and our most persuasive witness.

On Unity and Division Within the Church

- ❖ Our unity is centered on the saving work of Christ on the cross. (1 Cor. 1:10)

Galatians 3:27–28 (ESV) — 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

- ❖ Malignant division is often a result of pride, selfishness and a misunderstanding of the gospel. (1 Cor. 1:11-13)

James 4:1–3 (ESV) — 1 What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? 2 You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.

- ❖ Division can creep in when we get our eyes off Jesus and onto a dynamic, entertaining or intriguing personality.

1 Corinthians 3:1–9 (ESV) — 1 But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. 2 I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, 3 for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way? 4 For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not being merely human? 5 What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. 6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. 7 So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. 8 He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. 9 For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.

- ❖ A Christ-centered, love based unity is the foundation of our witness in a divided world.

John 17:20–21 (ESV) — 20 "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, 21 that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

Personal Application

- ❖ Read Jesus' prayer in John chapter 17.
- ❖ In prayer, ask God to reveal places of pride and selfishness in your own life that could be causes of division.